

## What is a Compact?

### It is...

- a written agreement between the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and the public sector (including Local Authorities and the Health sector) detailing how they will work together for mutual advantage and for the benefit of communities
- a way of working in partnership – setting out a series of shared values, principles and commitments between partners to improve the way they work together, consult and make decisions

## The National Compact

The National Compact was signed between the Government and the VCS in 1998. The National Compact comprises an overarching statement supported by five Codes of Good Practice covering

- Funding & procurement
- Consultation and Policy Appraisal
- Volunteering
- Black & Minority Ethnic Groups
- Community Groups

## North Yorkshire Compact

The North Yorkshire Compact provides a shared vision of partnership working focused on

Trust and confidence
Mutual understanding and respect
Openness and transparency
Accountability and integrity
Leadership and common purpose
Listening and communication

## Why a Local Compact for North Yorkshire?

- The VCS is a significant public service providers in partnership with public bodies – such as local authorities and the health sector – providing huge economic benefit to the county
- VCS activity promotes socially inclusive communities and community development

### BUT

- The VCS faces considerable challenges that require the support of others to overcome:
- a mismatch in expectations and understanding between the VCS and other organisations
- the need to secure sustainable funding
- the need to respond to changing demands – of users and partners
- finding, recruiting and keeping volunteers

## Who's Who?...

### THE NORTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Responsible for promoting the social, economic and environmental well-being of North Yorkshire through effective partnership working. Assumes ultimate responsibility for the evaluation, development and promotion of the North Yorkshire Compact

### THE NORTH YORKSHIRE COMPACT STEERING GROUP

Brings together representatives of signatory organisations on a 6-monthly basis to consider options for further development of the NY Compact, conduct the Compact Annual Review, celebrate good practice and resolve any disputes

### THE NORTH YORKSHIRE COMPACT WORKING GROUP

Comprises a small number of representatives of signatory bodies from across all sectors. Appointed by the North Yorkshire Compact Steering Group on an annual basis and reports to the NYSP on progress on development, emerging Best Practice and compliance.

### Compact Working Group ... Compact Steering Group

Chair: Neil Irving,  
 North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations,  
 01347 825710, [neil.iring@nyfvo.org.uk](mailto:neil.iring@nyfvo.org.uk)

Secretariat: Justine Williams,  
 North Yorkshire County Council,  
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The names and contact details of signatory organisations (public sector and VCS) are available on request from the Secretariat and are published on the NYSP website

### North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership

Information on the development, implementation and evaluation of the NY Compact, including notes of all relevant meetings, contact details and links to other sites can be found on the NYSP website [www.nysp.org.uk](http://www.nysp.org.uk) or contact Bill Cross on 01609 780780

Working to these principles should allow public bodies and voluntary and community groups of all sizes to work together easier, quicker and better – benefiting both sectors:

Public Sector Bodies	Voluntary & Community Groups
✓ Demonstrates a commitment to partnership working in Comprehensive Performance Assessment and other external audits and inspections	✓ Working in an enabling and supportive environment where public bodies value your contribution
✓ Recognition of expertise of the VCS	✓ Boosts the prospects of external funders investing in the area
✓ Encourages excellence and increases expertise amongst partners providing a resource for service development	✓ Clear, accessible funding procedures and help in kind
✓ Greater understanding of the work of partners in the community	✓ Meaningful engagement and appropriate representation on public sector bodies
✓ Increased confidence in the Governance arrangements of the VCS	✓ A clear voice, with the opportunity to develop influence in decision making and policy development processes

## The North Yorkshire Compact comprises:

### An overarching statement

- acknowledging the value (both social and economic) of voluntary and community activity in the county
- setting down a series of shared principles, undertakings and commitments to support and strengthen voluntary and community activity and partnership working in general
- mechanisms to make sure it works

### Supporting Codes of Practice

Designed to help turn the principles of the overarching Compact statement into practice. In North Yorkshire there are currently three codes

#### Information & Communication

Seeks to facilitate information flow, raise awareness and build knowledge and understanding across sectors and partners. Promotes accessibility, information sharing and shared resources

#### Funding

Covers all forms of funding – grants and contracts – works to achieve good regulation with regard to VCS funding including the five key principles of transparency, accountability, targeting, consistency and proportionality.

#### Consultation

Sets out good practice guidelines to ensure consultation is meaningful and valuable. Seeks to ensure organisations have enough time to have their say (12 weeks wherever possible) and the VCS has the opportunity to influence statutory sector policy, strategies and plans

## COMPACT CONTACTS LOCALLY

### Craven

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### Richmondshire

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